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many on board a German steamer, but he obtained passage on board an Italian steamer bound from here to Genoa. Neither by the agency nor by the physician on board was the conveyance of the patient prevented; and after the arrival no one took pains to ascertain what became of him, although he represents a danger for his neighborhood.

Yesterday I had occasion, by an accident, to observe a lady suffering from leprosy aboard of a large French steamer. The lady came from Bordeaux and went to Buenos Ayres. No special precautions were taken on board; the embarrassment of the patient was the only restriction of free motion aboard.

Such unprohibited free passage of lepers does not surely correspond to the hygienic measures of prophylaxis.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary reports from Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *January 10, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official sanitary report for December 16 to 31, inclusive.

There were 585 deaths from all causes, an increase of 22 as compared with the foregoing period of fifteen days, being at the rate of 36.56 per diem, and corresponding to an annual death rate of 17.13 per 1,000, against 37.53 and 17.58 per 1,000 as compared with the previous fortnight.

During the same period of the year 1899 there were 657 deaths, which correspond to 41.06 per diem and to an annual death rate of 19.50 per 1,000.

The number of deaths in regard to infectious and contagious diseases was as follows: Tuberculosis, 126 against 114; smallpox, 21 against 27; malarious fevers, 26 against 24; beriberi, 9 against 3; influenza, 8 against 3; yellow fever, 4 against 0; typhoid fever, 4 against 2; dysentery, 3 against 3; plague, 3 against 7; measles, 2 against 0, and diphtheria, 1 against 2.

There were 498 births—that is, an average of 31.12 per diem, corresponding to an annual birth rate of 14.57.

The thermometer varied as follows: 31.1° maximum, 20.2° minimum, and 23° medium.

As the figures show, the general state of health of the city of Rio de Janeiro may be considered favorable. Especially in regard to infectious diseases we can say, that yellow fever exists only in a very sporadic form. Since the medical statistical service has been organized this is the first time that, during the first half of December, there have occurred no deaths from yellow fever. There were during the same period of 1893, 7; 1894, 1; 1895, 51; 1896, 3; 1897, 1; 1898, 8, and 1899, 21 deaths.

Smallpox shows a decrease, and the hot season through which we have to pass will diminish or extinguish it entirely.

Plague occurs on a very limited scale. There are only sporadic cases, but we must be cautious in regard to our opinion for the future. The cases that were previously observed and those that have recently occurred were in very different parts of the city, which proves that the germs exist everywhere. It is difficult to say whether we shall now be free from plague or whether it will continue.

Plague at Rio de Janeiro—Obligatory death inspection—Plague at Nictheroy.

The march of the plague at Rio de Janeiro has been as follows:

Date.	New cases.	Deaths at—		Cured.	Number of patients in hospital.	Date.	New cases.	Deaths at—		Cured.	Number of patients in hospital.
		Hos-pital.	Resi-dences.					Hos-pital.	Resi-dences.		
Dec. 16...				1	8	Dec. 24...					11
Dec. 17...		1			7	Dec. 25...	1				12
Dec. 18...	1				8	Dec. 26...				1	11
Dec. 19...	3				11	Dec. 27...					11
Dec. 20...		2			9	Dec. 28...					11
Dec. 21...	2				11	Dec. 29...					11
Dec. 22...					11	Dec. 30...	1				12
Dec. 23...					11	Dec. 31...	1				13

Beside the other measures for preventing plague that I have mentioned in former reports, the director of board of health has introduced the obligatory inspection of all deceased persons. That is intended principally to find out all concealed cases and deaths from plague. One of the consequences of this order is that, for instance, a death from smallpox that was concealed and declared as pneumonia has been discovered.

An irregular act of a physician has produced here a certain sensation. This physician, member of the municipal board of health, who at present is employed as physician on board of the national steamer *Alagoas*, has concealed the fact that aboard there occurred 2 cases of plague that were attested as common diseases. One death from plague occurred in the port of Bahia, and the deceased was buried with a certificate of syncope cardiaca. (a.)

In a previous report I mentioned the cases of plague, which occurred at the neighboring city of Nictheroy. The sanitary authorities took much pains to extinguish the plague germs and to inspect the sanitary conditions of the city. In general, the public gave very little assistance to the sanitary measures adopted.

On the 19th of December Dr. Epaminondas was informed of the appearance of dead rats at No. 66 Rua Marechal Deodoro. Rigorous measures were thereupon adopted. To disinfect the building the floor was raised and under one of the boards was found a rat that had recently died. The blood of this rat was examined by the bacteriological institute of the city of Rio de Janeiro, and showed the existence of the specific bacillus of bubonic plague. Strict hygienic precautions were ordered, and the island of Carvalho was placed at the disposal of the tenants of the infected houses. But such was the indifference of these tenants, that of building No. 58, Lieutenant Gasparino da Silva Pereira went to the office of a journal and stated that the rats had died from poisoning. The editor of that journal, however, advised Lieutenant Gasparino not to leave his family in such a dangerous situation. His answer was simply, "I am a fatalist." Some days afterwards his mother-in-law, who was residing with him, died, and her death was shortly afterwards followed by that of the lieutenant himself.

a The person who died at Bahia, and the real cause of whose death was concealed, was a machinist, of the steamship *Alagoas*, and resided, when at home, in Nictheroy, Marechal Deodoro Street, 60, where the dead rats were found, as I shall inform you under the occurrences at Nictheroy.

Since that time there have occurred 3 more cases, the patients being carried to the isolation hospital at Paula Candido. (a)

Sanitary report from the State of Sao Paulo.

The official data in regard to the sanitary conditions during the month of August are as follows: The total number of deaths was 3,266, a decrease of 49, as compared with the month of July. From tuberculosis there died 177 persons (33 at the city of Sao Paulo and 18 at Santos), an increase of 21; and from malaria 75, a decrease of 1.

From typhoid fever there died 30 persons (3 at the city of Sao Paulo), a decrease of 7; from yellow fever, 6 persons (1 at Sao Paulo, 1 at Santos, 1 at Ytu, 3 at Areas), a decrease of 6; from measles, 14 persons, an increase of 1; from scarlet fever, 1 person, the same as before.

In regard to other infectious diseases, there are 6 deaths from diphtheria, 43 deaths from whooping cough, 7 deaths from erysipelas, 11 deaths from dysentery, 164 deaths from influenza, 3 deaths from diarrhea infectiosa, 9 deaths from leprosy, and 2 deaths from hydrophobia.

Bills of health.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office:

January 3, bark *Foohng Suey*, American, for New York. January 7, steamship *Ragusa*, German, for New York; schooner *Edith L. Allen*, American, for United States via Grand Connetable Island. January 9, bark *Edward Percy*, Norwegian, for Ship Island; steamship *Rosalie*, British, for New Orleans. January 10, steamship *Olbers*, Belgian, for New York.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, January 25, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official sanitary report for January 1 to 15, inclusive:

There were 564 deaths from all causes, being at the rate of 37.6 per diem and corresponding to an annual death rate of 17.30 per cent, against 36.56 and 17.13 per cent, as compared with the foregoing fortnight.

The number of deaths in regard to infectious and contagious diseases was as follows: Tuberculosis, 99 against 126 during the last half of December (sixteen days); malarious fever, 35 against 24; plague, 3, the same as before; smallpox, 18 against 21; beriberi, 11 against 9; yellow fever, 6 against 4; typhoid fever, 7 against 4; dysentery, 2 against 3; measles, 1 against 2, and influenza, 1 against 8.

There were 535 births—that is, an average of 35.66 per diem, corresponding to an annual birth rate of 16.41 per cent.

The thermometer varied as follows: 35.1° C. maximum, 19.7° C. minimum, and 25.14° medium.

a I learned that plague has appeared also at Macahé, situated about three hours' ride on the railway distant from Nictheroy, and in the vicinity. The authorities are adopting all convenient hygienic measures, and it seems with satisfactory results.